

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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## NEW LAKE ALICE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN NORTH DAKOTA IS APPROVED

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved a new 12,000-acre national wildlife refuge in northeastern North Dakota, to be known as Lake Alice National Wildlife Refuge. Federal wildlife refuges are managed by the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service.

All of the land surrounding Lake Alice's 3,400 acres will become part of the refuge. The lake, a shallow marsh with an average depth of three feet, has a long history of heavy use by waterfowl.

During the summer the lake serves as a gathering point for up to 30,000 moulting ducks. In the fall, as many as 120,000 mallards and 50,000 geese inhabit the area. Each year, Lake Alice is the birthplace for an estimated 3,000 ducks and 3,500 coots.

Fish and Wildlife Service officials say the new refuge will, with managed improvements to nesting habitat, add approximately 30,000 waterfowl to the present average annual production of the lake.

One of the largest breeding colonies of Franklin's gulls in North Dakota is found on Lake Alice, which also is home for a large breeding colony of Forester's terns. Other marsh birds nest on the lake and make the area a major attraction for birding enthusiasts.

This locality is well known as an outstanding waterfowl hunting area. Controlled waterfowl hunting is envisioned in future years, and upland game hunting may be permitted for deer, pheasant, and sharp-tailed grouse.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission decides on proposed land acquisitions employing funds collected through the sale of duck stamps and advances authorized by the Congress against future duck stamp sales. Its members are Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton (chairman), Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, Secretary of Transportation John Volpe, Senator Henry Bellmon of Oklahoma, Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana, Representative Silvio Conte of Massachusetts, and Representative John Dingell of Michigan.